

DENNIS A. CARDOZA
18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY AND POULTRY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0518

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1224 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6131

DISTRICT OFFICES:

2222 M STREET, SUITE 305
MERCED, CA 95340
(209) 383-4455

1010 10TH STREET, SUITE 5800
MODESTO, CA 95354
(209) 527-1914

137 EAST WEBER AVENUE
STOCKTON, CA 95202
(209) 946-0361

February 23, 2010

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
B-71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

I am writing to request that your Committee ensure that sufficient resources are provided in the 2011 budget to restore the President's cuts to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. Specifically, I am asking you to provide the resources necessary to restore HIDTA funding to the 2010 enacted level of \$239 million. This program is critical for my district and the state of California, and its full funding is imperative for fighting the increasing methamphetamine and marijuana production in the Central Valley.

The President's 2011 budget provides only \$210 million for the HIDTA program, a cut of \$29 million from the 2010 enacted level. These funds are used to support marijuana eradication efforts on public lands, the domestic highway enforcement program, pharmaceutical diversion programs, and the indoor cultivation of marijuana program, as well as others. Nowhere are these more important than in the Central Valley.

The Central Valley HIDTA has long been called the country's "Meth Capital." While methamphetamine production has declined nationwide since 2004, the majority of drug laboratories are still located in the Central Valley, where production appears to be increasing. As a result of the HIDTA program, however, significant progress has been made.

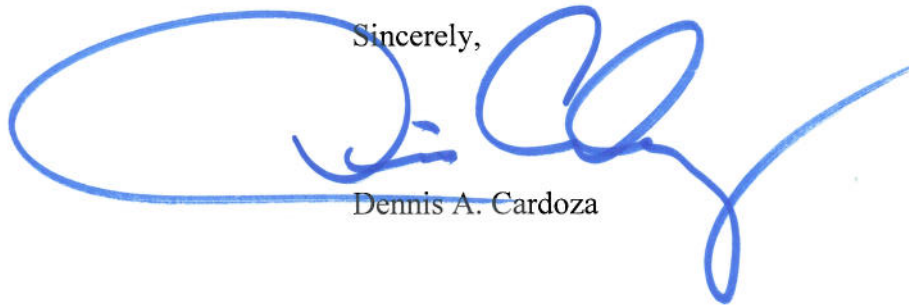
In 2009, through the Valley's HIDTA alone our law enforcement officers were able to use the funding to disrupt or dismantle 46 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations of which the majority involved multistate or international trafficking. In the process, the HIDTA-funded task forces seized more than 7,917 pounds of marijuana, 390 pounds of cocaine,

832 pounds of methamphetamine, 113 pounds of heroin, and significant amounts of pharmaceuticals, club, and hallucinogenic drugs. In addition, through HIDTA funding nearly 6 million marijuana plants were eradicated in the Valley, most of which were grown on public lands. The conservative estimated wholesale market value of these drugs is approximately \$17.7 billion.

Cutting the program's spending will significantly diminish the local, state, and federally coordinated law enforcement efforts to fight drug production in the Central Valley at a time when methamphetamine and marijuana production is increasing in the region. In addition, these cuts will disproportionately impact the state of California, which is on the front lines of the U.S. fight against drug production and trafficking. That is why I urge your Committee to provide the resources necessary to restore HIDTA funding to the 2010 enacted level of \$239 million.

I look forward to your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Cardoza', with a large loop at the end.

Dennis A. Cardoza